



The Toni Times

From the Desk of Councilmember Toni Atkins



July 2005

ATKINS FIGHTS FOR CSOs , LIBRARY AND PARK AND REC HOURS AS PART OF '06 BUDGET

The City Council recently completed the Fiscal Year 2006 budget deliberations on June 27th. Of the last 11 years working on your behalf at City Hall, I considered this budget to be the most difficult. There were reductions in staffing and city services, closure of Community Service Centers, and increases in a variety of fees.

One of my greatest concerns was the proposed elimination of Police Department Community Service Officers (CSO) that are part of the Multicultural Storefront in City Heights. With their language and cultural capabilities, we have been able to create relationships with many new immigrant communities of Asia and Africa. Working with the city manager and police chief, the council was able to save 10 CSO staff positions with direction to the city manager to identify additional funding sources in the next few weeks.

After considering community concerns and reviewing priorities, we were able to restore four additional Sunday hours to the Weingart City Heights Branch Library. Library hours critical to youth are needed for this well-used facility. I was able to reprogram a small amount of funds to purchase library books and materials for the children's section at the City Heights Library. I was also able to restore recreation center hours at the City Heights Recreation Center, and identified funds to partially restore a position with the Historic Resources Board. Many of you let me know this was vital because historic preservation issues are important in our older urban neighborhoods.

The city manager proposed fee increases in a variety of departments. The City Council ultimately scaled back some of these fee increases so they wound up not as onerous as originally proposed. For instance, there will be a modest increase in the residential parking permit fees instead of the originally proposed fee which was three times the current price.

Additionally, I was successful in averting proposed cuts to the Small Business Enhancement Program and Community Parking District Program.

As a follow up to the budget discussions, I will be serving on a committee that will look at revenue opportunities for the city as well as continue to look at efficiency levels for services provided throughout the city.

TROLLEY BARN PARK PLAYGROUND REOPENED IN TIME FOR JULY 4TH

Great news! After some minor construction delays, the upgrades to the Trolley Barn Park playground in University Heights are complete, and the park was reopened in time for the July 4th weekend. I opted to fund these repairs and upgrades using state and city park funds. The total cost of this project was \$400,000



Trolley Barn Park playground in University Heights is once again open for kids of all ages to enjoy.

39TH STREET PARK REPAIRS TO BE COMPLETED SHORTLY

There's also good news to report regarding the ongoing repairs to the 39th Street Park in Normal Heights. According to Caltrans, which did the original installation of the playground equipment, repair work is expected to begin the week of July 11th.

The playground has been closed down in recent months due to poor compaction of the soil causing the playground equipment to sink. New parts have been ordered and the repairs should be completed by mid July.

Special thanks to all the parents and children who waited patiently for the improvements to both of these parks.

CITY HEIGHTS SQUARE APPROVED BY COUNCIL

On Tuesday, June 28, 2005, the City Council voted 7-0 to approve the City Heights Square project. The project will redevelop the majority of the full block between 43rd Street and Fairmount Avenue, on the north side of University Avenue, with an 89,788 square foot office building with ground floor retail, a community health clinic, 150 units of quality rental housing for seniors (plus one manager's unit), and a 5,348 square foot public park. The project provides a total of 451 on-site parking spaces located in three underground parking garages (373 spaces) and two surface parking lots (78 spaces).



City Heights Square will include office and retail (above) and senior housing (below), along with La Maestra health clinic.



An outpatient medical clinic will be constructed and operated by La Maestra, a non-profit medical, dental and social services agency. The senior housing will be constructed by Senior Community Centers of San Diego, which operates other quality senior housing developments in San Diego, including the Potiker Family Senior Residence in downtown San Diego. All of the 150 units at City Heights Square will provide quality affordable housing for seniors with incomes at or below 50 percent AMI (i.e., \$27,600 for a two-person household).

I'd like to thank San Diego Revitalization Corporation, Senior Community Centers, Chelsea Investment Corporation, La Maestra, the community and city staff for making this project possible despite the stringent deadlines.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NORMAL HIGHTS. SCHOOL UNDERWAY

Ground has been broken on the new Normal Heights Elementary School. The \$27 million project, scheduled to be completed in fall 2006, is funded by Proposition MM, the 1998 bond measure that provides \$1.51 billion toward \$4 billion of needed repairs and construction at public schools in the City of San Diego.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by many community members, parents and future students. Pam Ison, my Third District liaison to public and private schools, was on hand to witness the milestone event. Other guests included: Ron Ottinger, former president of the Board of Education; Katherine Nakamura, current board member; and Leslie Fausset, interim superintendent for San Diego City Schools. Risa Baron and Gary Weber, representing the Normal Heights Community Planning Group, helped with the first "dig."



Local children (top left) and community leaders (left) help break ground signaling the start of construction on the Normal Heights Elementary School. An artist's rendering (above) of the campus.

The two-story school campus, on six acres at 3750 Ward Road, will include 28 classrooms, a library, multipurpose room, state-of-the-art technology and energy-efficient design features. I am continuing to work with the school district on the development of a joint-use grass playfield. The school will serve 600 students and will help relieve overcrowding at area elementary schools.

At the community's request, 10 trees on the construction site are being preserved during construction. The school's colorful design will reflect the artistic nature of the community. A grand corridor through the center of campus will provide public access after hours via a curvilinear sidewalk with architectural lamppost lighting. The school was designed by Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects, a Third District firm.

For more information about new school construction and Proposition MM, go to www.sandi.net/propmm.



The California Tower

PROP 40 FUNDS WILL COMPLETE TWO MAJOR BALBOA PARK RESTORATION PROJECTS

Council recently approved an additional \$1.8 million in Proposition 40 park bond funds to fill a funding shortfall for long-term restoration and stabilization of the California Tower and recasting of the ornamentation on the façade of the San Diego Museum of Art. The majority of funding for these projects comes from a previous Prop 40 state grant that I worked with Mayor Murphy to secure, along with the help of then-Governor Gray Davis and then-Assemblymember, now-Senator Christine Kehoe.



The San Diego Museum of Art

I want to thank Mayor Murphy, Ellie Oppenheim and the Park and Recreation Department, trustees of the Museum of Man and the Museum of Art, and Steve Hill in my office for working together to identify these funds and shepherd this through the public process.

This restoration project is one of many ongoing projects in Balboa Park that will preserve and enhance the park as it heads toward the centennial celebration of the Panama-California Exposition in 2015.

WEST ARCADE RE-CONSTRUCTION SET TO FINISH IN SEPTEMBER

A drive across the Laurel Street Bridge into Balboa Park will bring into view a flurry of construction activity (see story above), not the least of which being the ongoing work that is part of the \$2.08 million re-construction of the historic West Arcade.



Construction continues on the West Arcade along The Prado. Work is scheduled to be complete in September of this year.

The West Arcade was a part of the Science and Education Building constructed for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. The West Arcade is located on the north side of El Prado between the Museum of Man and the San Diego Museum of Art.

Construction on the project is being done by The Augustine Company, and is expected to be completed by late summer. Special mention must be made of the substantial role that the Committee of 100 played in initiating and helping fund this project, and seeing it through to completion. Good job to all involved!

CAFE, CATERING KITCHEN PLANNED FOR AEROSPACE MUSEUM

Visitors to the San Diego Aerospace Museum some day soon should be able to enjoy a bite to eat while visiting this popular locale in Balboa Park. A 1930s-style Art Deco aviation café, with seating on the back patio of the historic Ford Building, is planned for the near future.

The project, which will also include a catering kitchen, has received the support of the Balboa Park Committee and is awaiting approval by the City Council.



An artist's rendering of the outdoor seating area of the cafe proposed for the Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park.

Barbecue and Grilling Safety

In 1999, gas and charcoal grills caused 1,500 structure fires and 4,200 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$29.8 million. Here are some helpful hints to avoid a summer barbecuing accident:

- Propane and charcoal barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Keep grills away from combustibles, including the outside of your house, balcony or garages.
- When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area; declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 or your local emergency number if a burn warrants serious medical attention.

Charcoal/Wood Chunk Grilling Safety Tips

- When using charcoal briquettes or wood chunks, form a pyramid and douse the briquettes/chunks with lighter fluid. Wait until the fluid has soaked in before lighting.
- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- Apply starter fluid directly to the coals, then reseal and put away the can. Light the coals carefully, avoiding the flame flare-up. Always keep a fire extinguisher handy in case of flare-ups.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid once coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- When using instant light briquettes, do not use lighter fluid, electric, solid, or metal chimney-style starters. Do not add more instant light briquettes once the fire has been lit; add regular charcoal briquettes if more are needed.
- All vents should be wide open while cooking. Charcoal briquettes/wood chunks require oxygen to burn.
- When you've finished cooking, keep an eye on the grill until it has completely cooled. Charcoal can be soaked with water to speed the cooking process, but use extreme caution to avoid the steam and splatters, which can cause burns. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Gas Grilling Safety Tips

- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- If you must transport your propane tank for any purpose, be sure you choose a relatively cool day. Keeping containers or any other grill parts that are under pressure in a hot car will cause an increase in the pressure of the gas, which could cause an explosion.
- Never dispose of your propane tank by throwing it in the trash. Check to see if there are municipal programs for collection in your area. If your grill uses a disposable tank, take care to use up all the residual gas before discarding it.
- Check hose integrity and hose connections to make sure gas is not leaking from your gas grill. Apply soapy water to hoses and connections to reveal any leaks.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- When lighting a gas grill, always keep the lid open to prevent an explosion from gas build-up.
- Do not lean over the grill when igniting the burners or cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill. Keep the grill clean.



Did You Know?

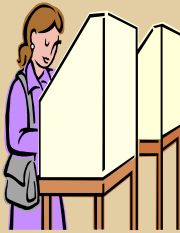
- Gas grills have a higher fire risk than charcoal grills; leaks and breaks are the leading cause, accounting for nearly half of gas grill fires.
- Gas-fueled grills caused an estimated 600 home structure fires and 3,200 home outdoor fires in 2001.
- Charcoal grills have a higher risk than gas grills of death due to fire or unvented carbon monoxide; most of these deaths do not involve fire.
- Charcoal-fueled or other solid-fueled grills caused an estimated 400 home structure fires and 200 home outdoor fires in 2001.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat, and leaving cooking unattended, are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home fires.
- Half of all gas grill and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.
- Gas fuel is the leading item first ignited for home outdoor gas grill fires.
- Wall coverings, exterior trim, and plants are the leading items first ignited in home outdoor charcoal grill fires.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR JULY 26TH SPECIAL ELECTION

The San Diego City Clerk's office and the Registrar of Voters are looking for U.S. citizens to serve as poll workers for the July 26, 2005, special election.

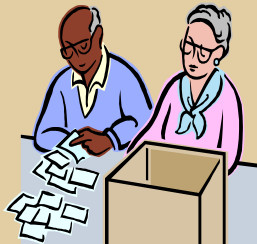


Poll workers receive between \$60 and \$100 for their day of service, depending on the job assigned at the voting location.



Bilingual workers receive an added \$5. Especially needed are bilinguists who speak English/Spanish, English/Tagalog, and English/Vietnamese.

If you are interested in working as a poll worker, please contact the Registrar of Voters office, Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. at (858) 694-3452.



POLICE DEPARTMENT CREATES PROCESS FOR ABC COMPLAINTS

The San Diego Police Department Vice Unit has created a formal process for citizens to lodge complaints against businesses that hold an Alcoholic Beverage Control license. Complaints will be investigated by detectives assigned to the vice unit. The goal of the complaint process is to bring problem establishments into compliance with state and local laws governing their operations.

The San Diego Police Department would like the public to alert it to undesirable business practices and behaviors in businesses that sell alcohol. Conditions to be on the alert for include prostitution, drug activity, violent crime, loitering, vandalism, poor lighting, graffiti, and excessive noise. These and other issues can threaten the health, safety and economic development of a neighborhood.

Any member of the public may file a complaint online at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/police/forms/alcohol.shtml> or by telephone at (619) 531-2423.

FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Under a federally funded program, the San Diego Unified School District is offering a free summer lunch for kids. All



children ages 2-18 are eligible to participate. There is no enrollment necessary, no paperwork needed and no income qualifications. The free lunch program is available June 27th to August 26th at the following locations in the Third District (call locations for times):

Rec. Center	Address	Phone (619)
Adams	3491 Adams Avenue	235-1149
Azalea	2596 Violet Street	235-1162
Balboa Park	2221 Morley Field Dr.	525-8264
City Heights	4380 Landis Street	641-6125
Golden Hill	2600 Golf Course Dr.	235-1138
Mid-City Gym	4302 Landis Street	516-3082
North Park	4044 Idaho Street	235-1152

THIRD DISTRICT REC COUNCILS RAISE \$9,186 THROUGH RECYCLING

Through recycling drop-off locations at city Park and Recreation sites in District Three, the city's Environmental Services Department was able to present a \$9,186 check to District Three's five recreation councils. The rec councils, North Park, Adams, Golden Hill, Azalea, and Morley Field, were recognized for their efforts to help reduce trash generated by city residents.



For more information about recycling programs within the City of San Diego, please contact the Environmental Services Department at (858) 694-7000 or visit their website at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/>.

UPCOMING THIRD DISTRICT STREET FAIRS, PARADES AND FESTIVALS

LGBT Pride Rally, Parade, and Festival

Rally: Pride Festival Main Stage, Juniper Street and Balboa Park Drive; Friday, July 29; 6:45pm
Parade: Hillcrest, University Ave. between Normal Street and Sixth Avenue; Saturday, July 30, 11am
Festival: Balboa Park at Sixth Ave. and Juniper St.; Sat., July 30, Noon -10pm; Sun., July 31, 11am-8pm
Contact: 619/297-7683

CityFest

Hillcrest, Fifth Ave. between University Ave. and Upas St.
Sunday, August 14; 10am-7pm
Contact: 619/299-3330

Latin Pride

Park Boulevard and Presidents Way,
Balboa Park
Saturday, August 20; 3pm to 10pm
Contact: 619/692-2077,
ext. 116

Ebony Pride

Park Boulevard and Presidents Way, Balboa Park
Saturday, August 27
Contact: info@ebonypride.org or 619/515-3606.

Adams Avenue Street Fair

Adams Avenue between Felton St. and 35th St.
Saturday, September 24; 10am-10pm
Sunday, September 25; 10am-6pm
Contact: 619/282-7329

AIDS Walk

Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue and Quince Street
Sunday, Oct. 2; 7am-Noon
Contact: 619/291-9255

THIRD DISTRICT SUMMER CONCERTS

18th Annual International Summer Organ Festival

Through August 29th
Monday evenings at 7:30pm
Free admission
Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park
July 11: Ken Cowan, concert organist
July 18: Gordon Stewart, British concert organist
July 25: Movie Night with Dennis James, organist
August 1: Chelsea Chen and Tom Trenney, rising stars
August 8: Simon Preston, concert organist formerly of Westminster Abbey
August 15: Gordon Turk, resident organist at the historic Auditorium in Ocean Grove, New Jersey
August 22: Gabriel Dessauer, concert organist from St. Bonifatius, Wiesbaden, Germany
August 29: Grand Finale: Carol Williams, Civic Organist, San Diego Master Choral

University Heights CDC's

Summer In The Park Concert Series

Trolley Barn Park, Adams Avenue and Florida Street
Friday evenings, 6 to 8pm, Free admission
July 8: Nitro Express Country Rock Band
July 15: Len Rainey & The Midnight Players
July 22: The Vision Band
July 29: Breez'n, San Diego's Variety Band
August 5: The Fabulous Ultratones
August 12: 7th Day Buskers Acoustic Roots Band
August 19: Sue Palmer
Contact: 619/297-3166

North Park Community Association

Summer Concerts

Saturdays, 5:30-7:30pm: Free admission
July 16, Bird Park: Chris Klich Jazz Quintet with Laura Preble
July 30, Bird Park: Hot Club of San Diego
August 6, North Park Community Park: Kush & Bloodfiyah Angels
August 20, Bird Park: New Lost Melody Boys
For more information, go to:
www.NPCASummerConcerts.org

District Three Community/Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm.

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Tuesday at 6:30pm, 3737 Wightman Street. Contact: 619-285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 West Gate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact Becky at rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): 2469 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102, 619/696-9992. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the GGHCDC offices.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

Normal Heights Community Dinners: Held the third Wednesday of the month (January-October) at 6:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 pm at North Park Christian Fellowship Church, 2901 North Park Way.

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held bi-weekly on Mondays at 6:00 and last one hour. For information, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC) meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC) meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm

How To Contact Us

Councilmember Toni Atkins
202 C Street, MS #10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 236-6633
Fax: (619) 595-1481
Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov
TTY: (619) 533-6586

DISTRICT THREE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)

Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue

Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm

Contact: Jim Varnadore, Chair, 619/280-3910.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Steven Stratman, Chair, 619/702-6055.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way

Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: John McGaughy, Chair, 619/574-1135, or jstewartstudios@aol.com

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Judy Elliot, Chair, 619/563-5473.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.

How To Contact Us

Councilmember Toni Atkins

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San Diego, CA 92101

Telephone: (619) 236-6633

Fax: (619) 595-1481

Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov

TTY: (619) 533-6586

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am

Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at

8am at the Indo-Chinese Asso., 4536 University Avenue.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165

Phone: 619/540-4410

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard

Meets the second Thursday of the month, 11:30am

Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm

Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00am

Contact: 619/294-2501

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733

Rick Edgil (Hillcrest) -- 619/291-1729

Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500

Ed LaVelle (North Park, University Heights, Burlingame) -- 619/284-1122

Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515

Bill Taitano (Normal Hgts., Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2815

Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3009

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave.

Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm

Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

North Park Project Area Committee

North Park Community Service Center, 3956 30th St.

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977, or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Denise Price, Chief of Staff; media, government relations, special projects, board appointments, pension, labor relations, budget.

George Biagi, Director of Communications; media liaison, webpage, newsletter; Council Representative to University Heights; Community Development Block Grant coordinator; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues; Chargers, Padres and other sports-related issues (excluding Petco Park); special events; Special Orders of Business/Council proclamations.

Jeff Gattas, Chief of Policy; Council Representative to Golden Hill and South Park; Council and committee docket overview; macro economic development issues, housing, strong-mayor transition, open government issues, living wage.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park and Kensington/Talmadge; environment, libraries, arts and culture, land use citywide; MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, military/veterans issues.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander and African-American communities; school liaison and education issues; women's, youth and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and the Chief of Staff; office manager, scheduler, volunteer coordinator, archive and records manager, constituent services tracking.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to North Park; liaison to the Latino community; Council docket coordinator; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison; senior issues.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Uptown, Hillcrest and Normal Heights; infrastructure, citywide redevelopment including Downtown and Petco Park, citywide business issues, energy, telecommunications, Metropolitan Transit System, SANDAG transportation, BID Council, NTC.